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UNCLAS VILNIUS 001203

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STATE FOR EUR/NB

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TAGS: MOPS PREL IZ DA LH

SUBJECT: LITHUANIA WILL STICK CLOSE TO DENMARK IN IRAQ

(SBU) Lithuanian Chief of Defense Major General Valdas Tutkus detailed for the Ambassador November 10 a proposal for the GOL to attach its Iron Wolf Brigade to the headquarters of a division of the Danish armed forces. This relationship will likely entail exchanges of staff officers and future joint exercises. Tutkus explained that the MOD is keen on this concept because it will provide Lithuanian officers unique experience at the division and corps level, and expanded opportunities for training. He said that Lithuania's decision to consolidate its contingent in Iraq into the Danish sector underscores its commitment to deepen ties with the Danes. Tutkus added that this link with Denmark will be a key element of Lithuania's future participation in the coalition in Iraq.

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